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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/768,154	01/24/2001	Takashi Ikeda	Q62762	3618
7590	06/17/2004			EXAMINER
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS 2100 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. Washington, DC 20037-3202			NALVEN, ANDREW L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2134	
			DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/768,154	IKEDA, TAKASHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Andrew L Nalven	2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 March 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim does not include a period. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 3 includes the limitation "said encryption key and said decoding key are identical," while claim 1 defines both the encryption key and decoding key as being unique information items. Claim 3 is dependent upon claim 1 and includes all the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, the limitation of claim 3 is indefinite and requires correction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 1-2, 4-5, and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasamoto et al US Patent No 5,912,969 in view of Lee et al US Patent No 5,774,544. Sasamoto discloses an information receiving and recording apparatus including copyright protection. Lee discloses a method for encrypting and decrypting microprocessor serial numbers.

7. With regards to claims 1 and 11, Sasamoto discloses a unique information storage means (Sasamoto, Figure 2 Item 403) for storing a first unique information item that specifies exclusively a pre-designated information encryption device (Sasamoto, column 3 lines 44-50), an encryption means for encrypting the distributed information that has been received with the first unique information item as an encryption key (Sasamoto, column 3 lines 55-60), and a decoding means for decoding the information that has been encrypted by the encryption means (Sasamoto, column 5 lines 3-7). Sasamoto fails to teach a second unique information item that corresponds to the first unique information item and used as a decoding key. Lee teaches a second unique information item that corresponds to the first unique information item and used as a decoding key (Lee, column 4 lines 13-38 "A Key"). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Lee's second unique information item with Sasamoto's recording apparatus because it offers the advantage of ensuring that the processor serial number is only accessible to authorized

users thus reducing the likelihood that the serial number may be fraudulently altered or accessed (Lee, column 1 lines 40-45).

8. With regards to claim 2, Sasamoto as modified teaches the unique information storage means being a read-only storage medium that permits only reading of the unique information items that have been stored (Lee, column 4 line 58 – column 5 line 15).

9. With regards to claim 4, Sasamoto as modified teaches a data storage means for storing information that has been encrypted by the encryption means (Sasamoto, column 4 lines 1-18).

10. With regards to claim 5, Sasamoto as modified teaches the data storage means being constituted such that the storage medium into which encrypted information is written is unexchangeable fixed in the information processor (Sasamoto, column 6 lines 25-41).

11. With regards to claim 7, Sasamoto as modified teaches a network interface means for taking in distributed information (Sasamoto, Figure 1 Items 2, 102, 201, 202).

12. With regards to claim 8 Sasamoto as modified teaches the first unique information item being stored before the information processor reaches a user (Sasamoto, column 3 lines 44-46).

13. With regards to claim 9, Sasamoto as modified teaches the unique information storage means is provided with a register (Lee, column 6 lines 20-22, column 5 lines 1-5).

14. With regards to claim 10, Sasamoto as modified teaches the first unique information item being a serial number that is assigned to the information processor (Lee, column 5 lines 1-5).

15. Claims 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasamoto et al US Patent No 5,912,969 and Lee et al US Patent No 5,774,544 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bruce Schneier's Applied Cryptography.

16. With regards to claim 3, Sasamoto as modified fails to teach the encryption and decoding key being the same. Schneier teaches the encryption and decoding key being the same (Schneier, Section 1.1, Page 3 Paragraph 4, Page 4 "Symmetric Algorithms"). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Schneier's method of identical keys with Sasamoto's recording apparatus because it offers the advantage of allowing the use of symmetric key algorithms which offer high efficiency and performance and strong encryption (Schneier, Page 216, Section 10.2).

17. Claims 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasamoto et al US Patent No 5,912,969 and Lee et al US Patent No 5,774,544 as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Ansell et al US Patent No 6,367,019. Ansell discloses a copy security system for portable music players.

18. With regards to claim 6, Sasamoto as modified fails to teach the data storage means being constituted such that the storage medium into which encrypted information

is written is interchangeably installed in the information processor. Ansell teaches the data storage means being constituted such that the storage medium into which encrypted information is written is interchangeably installed in the information processor (Ansell, column 9 lines 1-13). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Ansell's method of making storage interchangeable with Sasamoto's recording apparatus because it offers the advantage of affording an owner of a digital storage unimpeded convenience of use of digital media by allowing use on a number of storages while maintaining copyright protection for the digital media (Ansell, column 1 line 66 – column 2 line 3, column 2 line 46 – column 3 line 15).

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
20. Kurachi et al US Patent No. 4,835,682 discloses a computer system for preventing copying of program from a storage medium by modifying the program using a unique key.
21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew L Nalven whose telephone number is 703 305 8407. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8-6, Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse can be reached on 703 308 4789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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